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'Coins Are the Pearls on the Threads of History'

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Eric G. Warner
Editor

George Bennett, Wm. H. Spence
John Stoppelworth - Asst. Eds.

Vol. 1 October, 1959 No. 2

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by

C.A. (Slim) Dunbar, Pres., N.A.S.C.

GREETINGS --- Here we are with No. 2.

The outstanding report on Vol. 1, No. 1 can summed up with one word--smoooooth. Everybo says so!

The A.N.A. Convention is now history. From reports it was a grand show in every respect. T attendence record shows California was well repr sented. Our own Robert G. McArthur is a new elected member of the A.N.A. Board. We will he much from him in the future.

short time ago I addressed a letter to all officers club's representatives asking them to bring the ry of N.A.S.C. to the attention of their clubs. v I want to issue an appeal to the membership arge--should you, while attending your own club, while visiting another, see or hear something is interesting to you concerning numismatics, it down and mail it to the editor, or to any of officers. In so doing, others may benefit by ding about it in the N.A.S.C. Quarterly.

e are fortunate this year in Los Angeles County smuch as the next big convention will be "Cal e" in Pasadena this coming November. As I d before, it is a must on my calendar. Already favorite salutation is "See you at Cal State."

fter that one, the attention will focus on our own vention, February 18-20 at Hotel Statler. Some dies are being planned, and don't forget that reka" Bill Smith will be the auctioneer. He is ning his catalogue now. Nuff said--see you next e.

Numismatically yours,
'Slim'

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old is the most precious metal used as a common mercial medium of exchange. It is well suited its use in coins and jewelry. Gold is found bined with tellurium, as in sylvanite, but is found fly in the free state. Native gold usually con- 8 to 19 per cent of silver or more. Pure gold 4 carats. The U.S. gold dollar contains 25.8 ns. Troy weight, used in weighing gold, silver precious stones, is:

24 grains (gr) -- 1 pennyweight (pwt)
20 pwt. -- 1 ounce (oz)
12 oz. -- 1 pound (lb)

THE STORY OF N.A.S.C.
by Eric Warner

Chapter II

The Constitution and the By-Laws of the Numism tic Association of Southern California were adopt on November 28, 1955. The objects as set for in the Constitution are to advance the knowledge numismatics, historically, scientifically, and edu cationally; and for the purpose of bringing togeth numismatists of Southern California.

Conforming with these objectives is the annu convention usually held in Los Angeles. There hav been now four such conventions, the first one 1956. Each year the interest in the N.A.S.C. co ventions has exceeded the previous one, until no these conventions are of national status, with a tendance by many collectors and dealers from a over the country.

The first N.A.S.C. convention was held Februar 17, 18, 19, 1956 at the New Hotel Clark in Lo Angeles. The program of this convention lists Sco McCormac as president; Earl Whitehead, first-vi president; L. M. Woolard, second vice-presid Harold F. Donald, secretary; and E.L.Sims, tre surer.

The general convention chairman was Scott Mc Cormac. Karl Brainard was bourse chairman; N. Sanders, awards; C.A.Dunbar, Displays; Ab Sampson, door prizes; Charles Johnson, banque W.R.Fanning, entertainment; Harold Donald, regi tration; Grace Brainard and Thelma Case, ladie entertainment; George Bennett, publicity; and t auction sale was conducted by S.J.Kabealo.

The fifth annual convention is coming up on Fe ruary 18, 19, 20, 1960 at the Hotel Statler, L Angeles. That these founders of N.A.S.C. did th work well in the beginning and provided collecto in Southern California with an organization that be fits them immeasurably cannot be disputed.

POT POURRI
by Thelma Case

ere are a few items from my scrapbook. These e clipped from various periodicals throughout the rs.

The First Copper Coins produced in the United es were minted by Dr. Samuel Higley in Grandby, n. between 1729 and 1737. These coins bore inscription 'I am a good Copper--value me as please'."

Nails were so valuable in the 17th century Virg- that the colonist moving to new homes burned n their old homesteads to salvage the nails for r new houses."

The oldest view of London appeared on a coin of stantine the Great. It was minted in 324 and ries a view of the London wall and gate."

here did the $ sign originate? "Nobody knows. origin of this sign has baffled scholars for over entury. The most widely held theory is that the ar sign evolved from the Spanish abbreviation s, symbol of the Spanish coins known as pesteas. tudying old manuscripts scholars have found that lually the 's' came to be written over the 'p' ing a pretty close equivalent of the $ sign."

he explanation of the $ sign, as I heard it many s ago, was that in early paper transactions the rs U.S.--the abbreviation for United States-- used to designate that the money was American. lually the letters U.S. were written one on top ther, and finally an 'S' with two lines, as it is ten today. Editor)

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APPOINTMENTS

. Tom Wood and Mr. Don Dodd were appointed stration chairmen for the coming convention in ruary. Also appointed were Mrs. Grace Brainard Mrs. Thelma Case as co-chairwomen of Hosp- y and Women's Activity.

PERSONALITIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATICS

by William H. Spence
Associate Editor

Our second biographical tribute is to another wh has contributed much to the Numismatic Associatio of Southern California, and is currently serving a its president, C.A. 'Slim Dunbar.

Slim started life in 1897 in Argenta, (now Nort Little Rock) Arkansas. Perhaps there was a specia significance in his having been born in a town whos name means 'Silver'. During his first 13 years Sli attended school in 13 different states in the East an Middle West until his family settled in Oklahoma.

There he was employed as a railroad machinis until the strike of 1921, at which time he migrate to California and worked as an auto mechanic. Dur ing the 'Great Depression' years of the 30's Sli sold insurance. Three $2 1/2 gold pieces he recieve in premium collections started his abiding interes in numismatics. At about the same time Slim' family owned a restaurant on San Fernando Road i Los Angeles. From their change they set about as sembling sets of Lincoln Cents, completing three o them. Slim reports that at that time the coin mos difficult to find was the '1922 plain'.

His first purchase of a coin (in 1939) was an 185 Pattern half dollar, which he still owns and decline to sell. All other coins he now regards as mercl andise, since -as most of us know- he has operate a very lively coin shop in Inglewood since Novembe 1957. Also in 1957, a few months earlier, Sli organized the Southern Hub Coin Club, and serv as its first president. This club, which flourish from the start, has now undertaken the sponsorsh of a Junior Hub Coin Club to serve the youth collectors of Inglewood, Lennox and South Bay are

mong the innovations Slim has introduced to South- California numismatics is the coin bid board ch prompts so many collectors to make a weekly rrimage to his Inglewood shop. Through this ans collectors are enabled to dispose of their licate or unwanted items and -at the same time bid for new material for their collections.

im, a widower since 1952, is the father of two s and two daughters, and the proud grandfather nine admiring youngsters. He is active in the ewood Chamber of Commerce, serving on the nbership committee; and this year served also he committee to select the 'Goose Girl at Holly- d Park Race Track. Also active on the Lennox rdinating Council, Slim served as chairman for Southern Hub Club's participating effort.

older of Charter Membership No. 4 in our own .S.C., Slim is also a 16-year member of the erican Numismatic Association. In addition, he ntains active membership in the California State nismatic Association; the Los Angeles, Norwalk, Cities, North American Aviation, Culver City, er and Lawndale Coin Clubs. Slim is the 5th sident of the N.A.S.C., having previously served 1st and 2nd vice-president, board member, and the annual conventions-as exhibit chairman. He past president of Southern Hub and Bay Cities n Clubs, and has been a member of the Board Governors of the Los Angeles Club. During the 3 A.N.A. convention in Los Angeles he did an standing job as bourse chairman.

ith the extent of his interest and activity, it is wonder that Slim is regarded as one of the most cated and widely popular figures in Southern fornia Numismatics.

********** COMPETITION **********

he N.A.S.C. Board at its last meeting on Sep- ber 20th has provided a new display division wing for club competition at our conventions. os can come in now without competition with in- duals.

GOLD
by Karl M. Brainard

Gold, and gold coins are such a large subject that any discourse of less than several pages seem futile. However I shall try to bring out a fact.

Gold is where you find it: Never was there a more true saying. Death Valley Scotty was called a fool for looking for gold, in and around Death Valley But he found it.

Private gold coins, or Territorial gold coins were mostly the results of necessity. The shape or the size varied greatly, but not the desire or the need The pinch of gold, had to be relegated to the ash can. I understand that the bartender with the largest thumb, was paid the most, as he could pick up the most gold dust from the miners poke.

The Brasher's Doubloons were the first of our private gold issue; as well as about the rarest. The Guidebook says "Ephriam Brasher was a next door neighbor to George Washington." The value was about $16.00.

Next in line is the Templeton Reid coinage of Georgia. They later moved to California, where they minted $10.00 and $25.00 pieces. The $10.00 gold is in the Mint collection. The $25.00 was stolen from the Mint in 1858. Not a great amount is known about the Templeton Reid Mints.

The first to issue a $1.00 gold (including the U. S. Mint) was the Bechtlers. They settled in N. Carolina after a brief stay in Philadelphia. Originally they came from Germany.

The Bechtler coins were most always accepted at face value, as the reputation of Christopher Bechtler was above reproach. (see page 191 of the Redbook)

I hope to carry on about Territorial Gold in later issue.

?? NO MORE COMMEMORATIVE COINS ??

n July 1st, 'Slim' Dunbar wrote a letter of inquiry Cecil R. King, California Congressman. Mr. King y referred the question of future commemorative ns to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the latter sed it on to Mr. W. H. Brett, the director of the t. And here is what he replies:

Commemorative coins require the passage of a cial act of Congress. ---The Treasury has con-ently opposed the anactment of legislation auth-zing the minting of commemorative coins. It is position of the Department that these issues con-t with the purpose for which the coinage system established, namely, to provide a medium of hange, and that they lead to indefensible abuses, ably to traffic in them for private gain.

The policy of opposition to all commemorative ns was established in the Treasury Department er Secretary Mellon's administration and has been scribed to by all succeeding Secretaries of the asury."

ecretary Mellon apparently adopted this policy ing the administration of President Hoover, al-ugh he had been Secretary under Harding and Mr. lidge. This seems a logical conclusion since Hoover was the first chief executive, so far as available records indicate, who, in 1930, vetoed ommemorative coinage bill. In his veto message said: "There are a great many historical events ch it is not only highly proper but desirable to mmemorate in a suitable way, but the longer use our coins for this purpose is unsuitable and un-e. ---If this bill is to become law, it is not arent on what grounds similar measures, no ter how numerous, may be rejected. The govern-nt would be glad to assist such celebrations in creation of appropriate medals which do not have nage functions."

nce Mr. Hoover's veto, the Treasury policy has n adhered to by each succeeding President, Roose-, Truman, and Eisenhower, the latter vetoing

on February 3, 1954 a bill to issue a coin commem
orating the tercentennial of the founding of New Yor
City. President Eisenhower emphasized that

Although the policy of the Treasury Department fo
the past 30 years has been to oppose the issuance
of commemorative coins, any coin catalogue wi
show that many commemorative coins have, never-
theless, been issued since 1929. Presumably th
Congress overrode the vetoes of the four president
and 34 different commemorative half dollars wer
minted, the last one, Washington-Carver, in 1954
Up to this point it could be assumed that future com
memorative coins will be authorized by the Congres
despite the steadfast opposition by both the Treasur
Department and the President.

However, there are strong indications that now
after 30 years effort to abolish such coins the Con-
gress has capitulated to the wishes of its opposition
Instead of a commemorative coin, the governmen
has cast for Alaska a beautiful medal in honor of its
statehood. Just a few days ago, the Senate passe
bills which authorize the Treasury Department t
make up to 500,000 medals commemorating the 100t
anniversary of the Pony Express, and up to 20,00
medals for the Kansas centennial.

So, the pendulum is swinging away from coins t
medals, finally, after 30 years effort by the Trea
sury. That should make those commemorative coin
which have been issued a very desirable item fo
all collectors.

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NOTICE TO CLUBS

Many members of other clubs have a desire to vis
with you so it is to your advantage to have some
news about your club appear in the Quarterly. Sen
in some news about your club, such as meeting tim
new officers, or about special programs to the edit
3 weeks prior to the 15th of the month of publicatio

O-RIVERA COIN CLUB--which meets the second rsday of each month had as their speaker at the ember meeting, Richard P. Goodson, Second e-President of N.A.S.C., who talked about the ent A.N.A. Convention at Portland, and he also e some very interesting highlights on current adian currency.

THERN HUB COIN CLUB--operated a booth at annual Lennox Coordinating Council's Carnival, which organization co-sponsored Miss Loxi Scott Carnival Queen. The purpose of the carnival icipation was to help promote a Junior Coin Club he area, and to lend financial help to the various r youth groups. Celebrating their second anni- sary the club had as their guest the West Valley Club. John and Joy Parrish were in charge ntertainment. The club meets second Sunday rnoon at Woman's Club house at 4441 W. Lennox levard.

NTRAL COAST COIN CLUB--located at San Luis spo meets on the fourth Monday at 8 p. m. The has 60 members, and the attendance has aver- about 40 per meeting. Mrs. Donna Mills is sident, and Mr. James Silva is V-President.

FERNANDO VALLEY COIN CLUB-in September attended by better than 100 per cent of the paid membership, including guests. A report of the .A. Convention was given by Earl Glen White- . A panel type of show was provided, and part- ation was excellent. Refreshments and an auc- concluded the meeting.

GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB--will be host he California State Numismatic Association's iannual convention, with many of its members g part in various convention activities. The club ts the third Wednesday of each month at the l Green in Pasadena. Alva Christensen is the 's president.

GLENDALE COIN CLUB--meets first Wednesday o the month at YMCA, Wilson and Louise Streets. Recently installed officers are Vreeland H. Fraser President; George Bennett, Auctioneer extraordinar Vice-President; A. C. Barlow, John E. Huling, Dr. J. E. Neville, H. Runner, and Earl G. Whitehead, Members of the Board.

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB--W. Fanning spoke o Alaska gold. Mrs. Ney spoke about the Oregon Trai and Mrs. Brainard gave the high-lights on the ANA Convention at Portland. Donald Benge talked on the prices realized at Portland, and Karl M. Brainard spoke on Alaska "Bingles". All in all quite a "spoken" evening. The club's night for each coin has been very successful, and so far there has been a night for every U. S. coin, and a night for paper money. A 1955 shift cent was reported found by Mrs. Carolin Nestrick, and Thelma Case has added a set of "Bingles" to her collection of odd and curious monies.

GARDEN GROVE COIN CLUB -- John Stoppelwerth gave a talk on currency from colonial days, and included broken bank bills, fractional, and the large and small bank notes, together with a display of these currencies. The club reports its membership is increasing rapidly, there being four to ten new members each meeting.

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB -- President Bill Hogue who is a member of the Los Angeles Detective force, gave an illuminating talk on the subject of detecting counterfieters and running them down. His talk was illustrated by a display of genuine and bogus currency.

NORTH AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY -- The why and wherefore of cleaning coins was the subject of Mr. Bert Mead's talk, at a recent meeting. He stressed the importance of cleaning certain coins giving as his reasons; 1. selling purposes, 2. sanitary reasons, and 3, they will keep better when stored. Following his talk, a general discussion was held on various cleaning techniques.

VER CITY COIN CLUB--meets second Thursday
ie month at the Culver City Women's Club,
Watseka, at 8:00 o'clock. Door prizes include
ld piece and other numismatic items, refresh-
ts, auction, speaker, and a question and answer
l.

NEW CLUBS

e are happy to welcome into our midst two new
clubs in Southern California. One is in Pomona,
h will hold its first meeting October 3rd, at the
ona Women's Club House, 172 West Monterey.
e other club is in Santa Fe Springs. The meet-
there will be held on the 3rd Friday of the
th. Complete information on this organization
not been received, but it is understood that one
ur N.A.S.C. members, W. B. Keeney is the
-President.

WE'VE LOST SOME MONEY !

any of our members who issued checks or money
rs to the Numismatic Association of Southern
fornia at our last convention find that the check
issued has not been cashed, please contact
n' Dunbar, 937 So. La Brea, Inglewood, or the
surer, Louis Zumwalt, 4272 Pixie Avenue, Lake-
11, HArrison 1-2579. The following checks
been lost, and your cooperation in issuing a
cate check is requested:

Bank No.	Bank Name	Amount
16-77	Union Bank & Trust Co.	$20.00
16-189	Bank of America	14.00
16-234	Bank of America	2.00
16-325	Sec. 1st National	4.00
90-1335	Bank of America	8.00
90-1726	Sec. 1st National	24.00

THE PRESERVATION OF COINS

By

Dr. F. Stevens Epps,

This short essay is not to be construed with the wornout subject of how to clean coins. Rather it tells how to take a brilliant uncirculated or proof coin and keep it that way.

The writer, for 10 years, has been a student of chemistry as it pertains to metals, and coins are metals. All metals are subject to oxidation unless they are airtight (sealed) in an inert covering. Some metals will oxidize more quickly than others. For example: copper oxidizes more quickly than nickel, and nickel more readily than silver. These three basic metals, or combinations thereof, make up the content of most of our coinage today. Now just what does the word "inert" mean? It means a substance which is not affected by oxygen, or which contains no oxygen. There are very few liquids or solids that are inert, so few that we can name them readily. In the liquids, there are benzene and ether; in the solids, paper that contains no sulphur and in the plastics ethylcellulose, polystyrene and polyethylene. Even plexiglas is questionable because it contains polymethacrylic acid. Any chemical that attacks tarnish on a coin will later attack the metal itself. Butyrate is one of the most volatile plastics and acetate is not much better. They are commonly esterified together and dangerous for the protection of a mint coin.

If collectors are willing to learn and observe the rudiments of chemistry, and protect their mint and proof coins in the proper manner each year as they receive them, there would be no need for future worry about restoring them to their mint condition. But, the collector says, this is all very good advice, but what am I to do? Since all paper contains sulphur, take those uncirculated coins out of the bank wrapper as it has about 5% sulp content. Take your proof coins of the cellophane mint sealed pa age because all cellophane conta nitrate. The new mint sealed pr package does not contain the centage of nitrate that the usual of cellophane coin envelopes do, v true, but it still contains so nitrate.

Antitarnish tissue is supposed be "sulphur-free," but I have tes many sheets of various manufact and still found sulphur therein. you use an antitarnish tissue be sure it tests out "sulphur-fr and then you are safe. I know o least one kind that does test In the plastics stay with polystyre polyethylene or ethylcellulose, again you are safe.

Collectors have written me said, "I have done these very thi and still ruined some uncircula coins." This is a true statem so what happened? Some fore element was on the coin when it covered with the inert covering. example of this would be many the rolls of uncirculated nickel cent pieces. Automatic counting rolling machines used by banks lubricated by a grease that hig contaminates the metal of the c Each coin whether copper, nicke silver must be carefully inspected should be, before you place it in inert covering of your choice this grease is removed within 3 60 days from the time of min or before it "sets" on the metal, are safe. Use a clean pocket kerchief, and then if you are not sure, immerse the coin in cal benzene and buff it with l wool, then place it in your tarnish tissue or any of the mentioned plastics, and you ca get it for your lifetime. It will brilliant.

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